

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A probe microscope includes a probe and a scanner, the scanner generating
2 relative motion between a probe and a sample. In addition, a manual input device is
3 provided to control a separation between a sample and a probe. The detector is used to
4 generate a signal related to movement of the probe (for example, deflection). Moreover,
5 the microscope has an alerting device that is responsive to the signal to provide feedback
6 to an operator, the feedback being indicative of interaction between the sample and the
7 probe. Preferably, the manual input device is a rotatable knob. Also, the alerting device
8 is preferably a mechanical resistance device coupled to the knob to provide the feedback
9 to the user.